

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ATHENS 01618 181614Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 EURE-00 SS-15 SSO-00 NSC-05
NSCE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
INRE-00 /055 W
-----181623 096600 /44

O P 181511Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9194
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION NATO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 1618

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (CLIFFORD, CLARK M.) GR, TU, CY, PFOR
GREEK MEDIA REACTION TO THE CLIFFORD MISSION

1. ALL THE GREEK MEDIA (RADIO, TV AND PRESS) GAVE HEAVY COVERAGE TO THE FEBRUARY 17 ARRIVAL IN ATHENS OF THE CLIFFORD MISSION AND THE FORMER DEFENSE SECRETARY'S COURTESY CALLS ON PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS AND PRESIDENT TSATSOS YESTERDAY EVENING WERE PROMINENTLY FEATURED LAST NIGHT AND TODAY (FEBRUARY 18). MOST OF THE TREATMENT IS POSITIVE IN TONE, ALTHOUGH, AS MIGHT BE EXPECTED, THE COMMUNIST PRESS IS CRITICAL AND PRESENTS MR. CLIFFORD AS A NATO EMISSARY. CONSIDERABLE SPACE IS ALLOTTED IN TODAY'S NEWSPAPERS TO THE TEXTS, IN EXCERPTS OR IN FULL, OF MR. CLIFFORD'S ARRIVAL STATEMENT AND FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS' WELCOMING REMARKS (ATHENS 1581). PHOTOGRAPHS OF MR. CLIFFORD AND PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS ARE SHOWN PROMINENTLY IN MOST NEWSPAPERS. A FEW POLITICAL CARTOONS HAVE ALSO APPEARED.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ATHENS 01618 181614Z

2. THE MAIN THRUST ADOPTED BY MOST OF THE MEDIA IS THAT MR. CLIFFORD HAS COME TO GREECE AS A PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER WITH A MESSAGE ABOUT THE NECESSITY TO MAINTAIN PEACE IN THE AREA AND TO STRENGTHEN THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. HIGHLIGHTED IN SOME OF THE MEDIA ARE MR. CLIFFORD'S REMARKS ON THE NEED TO DISCUSS WITH

GREEK LEADERS THE PROBLEMS OF THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN, WHICH HAS BEEN INTERPRETED AS THE U.S. SEEKING TO PROMOTE A LASTING SOLUTION OF THE CYPRUS ISSUE. BASIC SUBJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED BY CLIFFORD WITH GREEK OFFICIALS CITED BY THE MEDIA ARE GREEK-AMERICAN RELATIONS, U.S. ASSISTANCE TO GREECE, GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS, CYPRUS AND NATO. INTERSPERSED IN THE REPORTING ARE REFERENCES TO TURKISH NEWS STORIES ATTACKING THE CLIFFORD MISSION. REFERENCE IS ALSO MADE TO A GREEK GOVERNMENT "SOURCE" AS STATING THAT THE GOG IS NOT CHANGING ITS POSITION VIS-A-VIS NATO, BUT THAT IT CONTINUES TO SEEK A "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP" WITH THAT ORGANIZATION.

3. COMMUNIST (PRO-MOSCOW KKE-EXTERIOR) RISOSPASTIS SAID THAT CLIFFORD CAME WITH A "NEW TRUMAN DOCTRINE" TO PRESSURE GREECE BACK INTO NATO. ADDITIONALLY, IN ITS EDITORIAL ENTITLED "THE HASTE OF MR. BITSIOS," IT ATTACKED THE GOG FOR ITS PRO-WESTERN FOREIGN POLICY ORIENTATION, MR. CLIFFORD'S ARRIVAL STATEMENTS WERE REMARKS PRAISING MR. CLIFFORD'S ROLE IN GREECE'S HISTORY DEMONSTRATED THE GOG'S WILLINGNESS TO CONTINUE ITS "SERVILE " RELATIONSHIP. DISSIDENT COMMUNIST (KKE-INTERIOR) AVGHI CHARACTERIZED THE MISSION AS SEEKING TO ANCHOR GREECE TO NATO ONCE AGAIN. THIS JOURNAL ALSO EDITORIALIZED, UNDER THE RUBRIC "IT WORRIES US," THAT THE MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING WHICH THE U.S. SEEKS TO ESTABLISH BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY IN FACT MEANS THAT GREECE SHOULD WITHDRAW FROM DEFENDING HER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 ATHENS 01618 181614Z

NATIONAL INTERESTS. THE EDITORIAL ALSO DENOUNCED THE U.S. FOR PUTTING BOTH COUNTRIES ON THE SAME LEVEL WHEN DISCUSSING THEIR AEGEAN DISPUTE, IGNORING FACT THAT GREECE IS THE INNOCENT PARTY AND TURKEY THE OFFENDER. THERE WAS NO OTHER EDITORIAL COMMENT TODAY.

4. SAMPLE HEADLINES INCLUDE: LIBERAL, OPPOSITION TO VIMA, "CRUCIAL TALKS ABOUT GREEK-AMERICAN RELATIONS BEGIN TODAY WITH CARTER'S ENVOY"; PRO-GOVERNMENT KATHIMERINI, "MR CLIFFORD BROUGHT A MESSAGE OF PEACE YESTERDAY -- HE IS OPTIMISTIC THAT THE CYPRUS SETTLEMENT WILL BE ACHIEVED DURING 1977"; PRO-GOVERNMENT ACROPOLIS, "AMERICA PRAISES CARAMANLIS' WORK"; COMMUNIST (KKE-EXTERIOR) RIZOSPASTIS, "CARTER'S SPECIAL ENVOY BRINGS A 'NEW TRUMAN DOCTRINE' TO ATHENS -- THE FRAMEWORK AND THE GOALS OF GREEK-AMERICAN TALKS: GREECE'S CLOSER ATTACHMENT TO THE USA AND NATO"; COMMUNIST (KKE-INTERIOR) AVGHI, "CLIFFORD: GREECE IS NATO'S ANCHORAGE -- PRESIDENT CARTER'S EMISSARY REMEMBERS THE 'TRUMAN

DOCTRINE", EXTREME RIGHT WING ELEFTHEROS COSMOS,
"CLIFFORD: THE USA WISHES TO HELP BECAUSE IT IS CONCERNED
--BITTERNESS ABOUT CYPRUS MUST NOT ALSO EXPAND TO
OTHER AREAS'-- THE MAIN TOPIC IS THE CYPRUS QUESTION,
WHILE ATHENS EXCLUDES THE SUBJECT OF A RETURN TO NATO",
PRO-GOVERNMENT APOGEVMATINI, "CARTER IN FAVOR OF
CARAMANLIS AND OF DEMOCRACY"; LEFTIST ELEFTHEROTYPIA,
"CLIFFORD: SOLUTION DURING 1977 WITH THE TRUMAN
DOCTRINE AS 'THE GUIDE'"; ULTRA-CONSERVATIVE ESTIA,
"GREEK-AMERICAN TALKS STARTED IN ATHENS -- BITSIOS
SAYS IT IS AN IMPORTANT MISSION -- SOLUTION WITH 1977:,
LEFTIST, OPPOSITION TA NEA, "THE AIMS OF CLIFFORD'S
CONTACTS -- HE PROMISES AID BUT REQUESTS
'UNDERSTANDING' AND...BASES" AND "CLIFFORD:
I HAVE NO PLAN FOR A CYPRUS SOLUTION -- PASOK
(PANHELLENIC SOCIALIST MOVEMENT); HE CAME TO ADVANCE
THE INTERESTS OF NATO".
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 ATHENS 01618 181614Z

KUBISCH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ATHENS01618
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D770058-1164
Format: TEL
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770229/aaaaazjo.tel
Line Count: 140
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9eae7cc4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3286708
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CHANGED> mcm 20041007
Subject: NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS
TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, GR, TU, CY, (CLIFFORD, CLARK M)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9eae7cc4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009